

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 H-01
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R 281308Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095699

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NS

SUBJECT: SURINAM INTEREST IN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WITH
US

REF: STATE 080723

1. ON APRIL 22, SURINAM AMBASSADOR KARAMAT CALLED ON
MICHAEL STYLES, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AVIATION, TO PRESENT
DIPLOMATIC NOTE NO. 323 DATED APRIL 20 REQUESTING
NEGOTIATIONS IN PARAMARIBO FOR A US/SURINAM AIR TRANSPORT
AGREEMENT. THE NOTE INDICATED THAT THE GOS WOULD LIKE
ITS DESIGNATED AIR CARRIER (PRESUMABLY SLM) TO BEGIN
PARAMARIBO-MIAMI SERVICE ASAP. FULL TEXT OF NOTE BEING
POUCHED.

2. KARAMAT TOLD STYLES THAT DURING THE 1974 US/DUTCH AIR
TRANSPORT AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, THE US REPEATEDLY
EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH
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SURINAM. HE SAID THE GOS "ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE"
TO IMPROVING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN PARAMARIBO AND THE
US. HE POINTED OUT THAT PAN AM STILL HAS RIGHTS TO FLY
TO SURINAM UNDER THE 1974 US/DUTCH AGREEMENT TO WHICH
SURINAM HAD SUCCEEDED IN 1975, BUT THAT SURINAM HAD NO
EQUIVALENT RIGHTS TO FLY TO THE US. ALTHOUGH PAN AM

IS NOT FLYING THE ROUTE NOW, KARAMAT FELT THE ROUTE COULD BECOME IMPORTANT, PERHAPS AS AN ADDITION TO PRESENT ALM/SLM JOINT OPERATIONS.

3. STYLES ACKNOWLEDGED GOS INTEREST IN THE ISSUE AND PROMISED TO STUDY THE PROPOSAL CAREFULLY. HE SAID IN 1974 THE US WAS TRYING TO SEPARATE THE MORE TROUBLESOME DUTCH PORTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM THE REST OF THE AGREEMENT AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THE US WOULD WANT TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME. HE INDICATED THAT AS A GENERAL RULE, COUNTRIES DO NOT EXCHANGE AIR AGREEMENTS UNLESS THE VOLUME BETWEEN THEM IS LARGE ENOUGH TO MAKE PROFITABLE OPERATIONS POSSIBLE FOR AIRLINES FROM BOTH COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT SURINAM MIGHT WANT TO ASSEMBLE ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION (SUCH AS ESTIMATES OF POTENTIAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC) THAT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE ROUTE.

4. FYI - THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD HAS SCHEDULED A HEARING ON THE ENTIRE ROUTE STRUCTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN (REFTEL), EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE GOS OFFICIAL OF SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL IN EVENT THAT GOS OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTY IN SURINAM MAY WISH TO COMMENT. FORMAL INTERUM REPLY TO NOTE WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY. REFTEL BEING REPEATED TO EMBASSY. END FYI.
VANCE

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